

IN THE CLAIMS

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A fuse comprising:

a fuse body comprising a first end, a second end and a bore extending therethrough, said bore comprising a clearing portion having a first cross sectional area and a positioning portion having a second cross sectional area, said first cross sectional area different than said second cross sectional area;

a fuse element assembly within said bore and extending substantially from said first end to said second end of said bore, said fuse element assembly comprising an outer dimension substantially coextensive with said second cross sectional area, a portion of said fuse element assembly substantially centered within said first cross sectional area, thereby ensuring a clearance between a fuse element and an interior surface of said fuse body within said clearing portion;

a first end cap secured to said first end of said fuse body and electrically connected to said fuse element assembly; and

a second end cap secured to said second end of said fuse body and electrically connected to said fuse element assembly.

13. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said fuse body is fabricated from Alumina Zirconia.

14. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said fuse body is substantially rectangular.

15. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said bore is substantially circular.

16. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12, said fuse body further comprising a guide portion intermediate said positioning portion and said clearing portion.

17. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said fuse element assembly comprises at least one fuse element comprising a first end, a second end, and a central portion, said fuse element assembly situated in said bore so that said central portion of said at least one fuse element is disposed within said clearing portion.

18. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said clearing portion extends for a first length, said positioning portion extending for a second length, said first length greater than said second length.

19. (previously presented) A fuse in accordance with Claim 18 said fuse body further comprising a guide portion intermediate said positioning portion and said clearing portion, wherein said guide portion extends for a third length, said third length less than said first length.

20. (original) A fuse in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said third length is less than said second length.

21. (previously presented) A fuse in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said end caps comprise substantially flat plates for surface mounting of said fuse.